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December 16, 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

The Honorable Jocelyn G. Boyd
Chief Clerk/Administrator
The Public Service Commission of South Carolina
101 Executive Center Drive, Suite 100
Columbia, SC 29210

**Re: Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC's and Duke Energy Progress, LLC's Joint
Petition to Establish a Consolidated Informational Docket for Review and
Consideration of Grid Improvement Plans
Docket No. 2019-_____-E**

Dear Ms. Boyd:

Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §§ 58-3-140 and 58-27-140 and Rules 103-301, 103-800 and 103-825 of the Rules and Regulations of the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the "Commission"), Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC and Duke Energy Progress, LLC (the "Companies") enclose for filing a Joint Petition to Establish a Consolidated Informational Docket for Review and Consideration of Grid Improvement Plans.

On March 13, 2019, the Commission, by Order 2019-26H, approved a stipulation between the Companies and the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff ("ORS") to establish a separate docket by no later than January 1, 2020, to consider the Companies' Grid Improvement Plans. In accordance with the stipulation and Order, the Companies propose, through the enclosed Joint Petition, opening a consolidated NDI docket for informational purposes only. The Companies propose this docket be used to house information and documents related to the Companies' Grid Improvement Plans, as well as to notice allowable ex parte presentations and technical workshops. The information in the informational docket would not create an official evidentiary record to be automatically used in future rate proceedings, but rather provide the opportunity for the Companies to respond to parties' information requests regarding the Companies' grid investments and plans outside of the limited time permitted in the course of a rate proceeding. As described in the Joint Petition, the NDI docket will not prevent, limit, or preclude any party from conducting discovery in any subsequent rate case or other proceeding where those costs are included, pursuant to the terms of the stipulation. Additionally, the Companies believe this docket will not affect the

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Commission's prior deferral order on grid investment issued in Docket No. 2018-206-E on November 13, 2018. (See Docket No. 2018-206-E, Order No. 2018-751.)

By copy of this letter, we are also serving ORS as well as the parties that participated Companies' recent rate proceedings with a copy of the enclosed Joint Petition.

Sincerely,



Heather Shirley Smith

Enclosure

C: Nanette Edwards, Office of Regulatory Staff (via email w/ enc.)
Dawn Hipp, Office of Regulatory Staff (via email w/ enc.)
Andrew Bateman, Office of Regulatory Staff (via email w/ enc.)
Jeffrey Nelson, Office of Regulatory Staff (via email w/ enc.)
Becky Dover, Department of Consumer Affairs (via email w/ enc.)
Carri Grube Lybarker, Department of Consumer Affairs (via email w/ enc.)
Bridget Lee, Sierra Club (via email w/ enc.)
Robert Guild, Sierra Club (via email w/ enc.)
Carrie Grundmann, Walmart, Inc. (via email w/ enc.)
Stephanie Eaton, Walmart, Inc. (via email w/ enc.)
Stinson Ferguson, SELC on behalf of SC NAACP, SCCCL & Upstate Forever (via email w/ enc.)
Michael Lavanga, Nucor Steel – South Carolina (via email w/ enc.)
Robert Smith, III, Nucor Steel-South Carolina (via email w/ enc.)
Richard Whitt, SCSBA and Cypress Creek Renewables (via email w/ enc.)
Scott Elliott, South Carolina Energy Users Committee (via email w/ enc.)
Thadeus Culley, Vote Solar (via email w/ enc.)
Hasala Dharmawardena (via email w/ enc.)